VIETNAM

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August 25

Up to August 23, 1969

3,320 US PLANES DOWNED NORTH VIET NAM

At the invitation of the Fatherland Front, a delegation of the Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces is now visiting North Viet Nam. Led by its President, Lawyer Trinh Dinh Thao, concurrently Vice-President of the Advisory Council to the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet

Photo: The delegation arrives in Hanoi :

Nam, it receives a warm and affec-

tionate welcome.

Lawyer TRINH DINH THAO (right), accompanied by HOANG QUOC VIET, member of the Viet Nam Workers' Party CC, member of the Presideum of the Fatherland Front CC and President of the Federation of Trade Unions, waves acknowledgement to greetings of Hanoians.



South Viet Nam

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PLAF NEW DEVAS. TATING STRIKES

Saigon Front

In Six Days Ending August 17

- O 6,000 Enemy Troops (3,500 Gls), 530 Vehicles (450 Tanks and Armoured Cars) and 70 Heavy Guns and Mortars Put out of Action; 90 Aircraft Downed or Wrecked in Binh Long and Tay Ninh Sectors.
- O 1,350 Adverse Soldiers Knocked Out in My The Province.

Da Nang Front

In Two Days (August 12 and 13)

- O About One Thousand Enemy Casualties (160 GI's).
- O Phu Bai US Base (near Hue) Stormed on the Night of August 10: a US Company Wiped Out With Heavy Material Losses.
- O 600 Soldiers Put out of Action, 4 Aircraft Grounded in Ouang Ngai Sector.

South of DMZ

900 Gls Disabled, 42 Vehicles Wrecked, 12 Aircraft Downed in the First Half of August.

" De-Americanisation " of the War

Leaning a Reed

Not resigning himself to giving up the imperialist objectives pursued thus far, the perfidious "hawk" Nixon the perfidious "hawk" 'Nixon thinks he has found a magic formula for a victory at cheaper perion in "de-Amerition" of the war. It consists in beefing up the pappet army by dralling as many youths as possible, thrusting youths are possible, thrusting at modern as US military security can allow, training them in the use of this security can allow, training them in the use of this armoury in the shortest delay possible, and then matching them against their compa-triots in the name of the latter's freedom and selfdetermination.

It is a miracle of simplicity. It is a miracle of samplicity, thowever, this pupped army ought to stand its ground in ' face of sn adversary that has, within a quarter of a century, defeated the Japan-use, the French armies, and successfully confionted the American—the three most reputed imperualist armies.

AN ARMY THAT HAS KNOWN BUT REVERSES AND HUMILIATIONS

BORN in the wagons of the French expeditionary entry during the "dirty" 1945-1954 Indoctina war, the puppet army is bandicapped irremediably by quite an inglorious past. He first nuclei consisted of units of auxiliary. ary troops recruited from among the riff-raff in occupied areas and armed by the French colonialists. Nguyen van Thicu, the present pup-pet "President" and "C-in-t", is one of these veterans in 1946 he

(Continued page 4)

US OBDURACY, CAUSE OF PARIS CONFERENCE'S DEADLOCK

of the Paris Conference and the words and deeds of the US government in that period are evidence enough of the stubborn position of the US, especially concerning two fundamental orientions: the withdrawal of the US troops and the recognition of the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination. In these two issues, the basic difference between US colonialist stance and the correct, fair and logical position of the Vietnamese people is only too clear.

As regards the first question, the US still insists on mutual troop withdrawal, an atterly absurd claim intended to justify the dispatch of US troops across half of the elobe. to invade Viet Nam and put on a par the US, the aggressor, and the Vietnamese people, victims of US aggression. It also denies the sacred right of self-defence of the Vietnamese people who are lighting on their own soil. In fact, it nims at prolonging the occupation of South Viet Nam by the (S expeditionary troops to stem the people's patriotic struggle and prop up the puppets.

As unmistakably pointed out to the ten point overall solution of the NLL, since the US has allegally committed troops to an aggression sgainst South Viet Nam, it must withdraw all US and satellite troops from there without any condition whatsoever. This matter must be settled between Viet Nam and the US. As an interna- troop withdrawal, on the tional issue, it cannot be South Vietnamese people's confused with another question which must be solved among the Victnamese people themselves, that is the one concerning the Vietnamthe armed forces in South Vart Num. The position of the Vietnamese people concerning this is a principled, clear-cut and logical one.

As for the right to self-cletermination of the South Vietnamese people. the US also suggested "general elections" and even declared readiness to accept whatever result "'elections" might yield. But the important point here is who will organize and control the elections In the US opinion, "elections" will be prespized and controlled by the Saigon puppet administration at the gunpoints of the US expeditionary troops. The US

HE seven fruitless months scheme is thus transparent: the so-called "free and democratic general elections" in which the US calls on the South Vietnamese people to take part after laying down arms would in no way differ from the previous "elections" farces that brought Ngo Dinh Diem and Nguyen Van Thieu to the puppet presidency.

> The NII, ten-point overall solution is unequivocal in this respect: to guarantee the real right of self-determination to the South Vietnamese people and to ensure really free and democratic general elections, a provisional coalition government must be set up, embracing the political forces reprethe so-called "de-Americasenting the various social nisation" or "Vietnamistrata and political tendenzation" of the war, the US cies in South Viet Nam that is feverishly strengthening and equipping the puppe stand for peace, independence and neutrality; this government will organize free and democratic general elections. work out a constitution and pave the way for the formation of a full-fledged coalilion government. Such general elections can be held only when the US and satellite troops have already been completely pulled out of South Viet Nam. This obviously is a fair and reasonable position, consistent with reality and the South

Victuamese people's funda-

mental national cights and

right to self-determination

A comparison between the

reasonableness of the RSVN

Provisional Revolutionary

Covernment and the NFL.

and the stubbornness of the

US on the problem of US

right to self-determination

and other problems leads to

this conclusion; the US

still refuses to give up its

colonialist policy, to recog-

nize the fundamental nation-

al rights and the right to

self-determination of the

South Vietnamese people and

still holds fast to the puppet

administration in the hope

of dragging on its occupa-

tion of South Viet Nam.

repressing the South Vietnam-

ese people and prolonging

the partition of Viet Nam.

It is therefore clear that the

US has not "gone as far as

it can, ". in the search for

peace, contrarily to what

Nixon has claimed. Instead,

the US has gone to great

lengths of obduracy and

perfidy to implement its neo-

colonialist policy in South

predicament, the US still refuses to give up its aggressive design and neo-colonialist policy against South Viet

This reactionary and obdurate stand of the US is the cause of the Paris Conference's deadlock. At the Conference's 30th session last August 14. Minister Nuan Thuy atressed: "The US must bear full responsibility for the lack of progress of the l'aris Conference, for the continued prolongation of the war in Viet Nam, for American youths being sent to useless death, and for the disastrous effects of US authorities' policy of war and aggression in Viet Nam.'

Binh, head of the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government delegation, on for foot-dragging the Paris Conference and pointed out, enough ' in ' opening the cloor to peace,' but on the contrary longing the war, and in swindling about peace. It is the US and nobody else which should be held fully responsible for prolonging the war and the sufferings and mourning sustained by the

August 20, 1060

On the other hand, US policy is vividly illustrated by the intensification of US military activities in South Viet Nam. In fact, the US. satellite and puppet troops frequently conduct "sweep' operations against the people, committing barbarous crimes US B. 528 daily drop thousand of tons of bombs devasting villages and crop fields. The US continues using in South Viet Nam lethal weapons and war means such asnapalm, phosphorous and seven-top bombs, toxic gas and chemicals. US aircraft daily carry out recon-mission flights over the DRVN territory and bombard many places. To put into effect

army on the US payroll. The atrocious was crimes committed by the US aggressors have been condemned by the progressive mankind. Yet, Nixon has had the cheek to say that the years of US aggression in Viet Nam were "the finest hours of

the United States." These cynical words once again prove that, despite its ever heavier setbacks and

Minister Mmc Nguyen Thi

August 7 denounced the US has gone too far in pro-Vietnamese people."

T the 31st plenary session A of the Paris Conference, the Vietnamese representatives, Ambassador Ha Van Lau (DRVN) and Minister Nguyen Thi Binh (PRG of RSVN), flatly rejected the US and Saigon puppet administrations' denial of their bellicosity and protestations

of their "love of peace." The two delegates pointed out that in the North, US places had continued their reconnaissance missions and bombing against many localities between the 17th and 19th parallels. American

US and puppet clique will go on deliberately stalemating the Paris Conference! Once again, Mmc Nauven Thi Binh unmasked the Thru-Ky-Huong triumvirate, a gang of vile traitors to the country. of fire-eating dictators rotten to the core, who persecute all those who dare stand for peace, independence and neutrality. They are at one another's throat in a scramble for selfish interests and positions. It is that administration despised by all the South Victoamese that the US has been doing its best

whether they mean that the

31st Plenary Session of Paris Conference on Viet Nam (Aug. 21, 1969)

Vietnamese People's Representatives Bare Washington's Bellicosity

guns based on US warships to prettify with "legal and and south of the DMZ had been carrying on poundings southern coastal of the areas of the DRVN. On August 6, 1969, US planes raided two villages in Quang Binb province, inflicting many civilian casualties.

In South Viet Nam, the US military command admitted that B.szs had recently flown the fiercest bombing sarlies in the Viet Nam was They dropped for instance nearly one thousand tons of bombs on the night of August 15, and 1,500 tans on the night of August 16 in the area bordering on Cambodia. Besides, the US intensified chemical warfare. Since 1964, US troops have sprayed up to 7,000 tons of toxic chemicals in South Vict Nam, a quantity enough to cover the whole of its territory. In July 1969, the US dispatched to the South a number of troops equivalent to a division, while American generale clamoured to maintain "maximum military pressure" there.

DRVN and PRG representatives commented that the US "withdrawal of 25,000 Gis" hoax and " free elections" ploy had hoodwinked nobody. When the delegates of the US and Saigon puppet administrations affirmed that they had gone as far [they] can" and would not make any step further, one wonders

constitutional" face and to shore up at the cost of many young American lives. There is no cleaser indication that the Washington rulers are fleuting public opinion as well as the aspirations of the South Vietnamese people.

In bringing out in relief

once again the soundness of to-point solution put forth by the NFL and PRG of the RSVN, the Vietnamese people's representatives underlined the will for peace of the DRVN government and PRG. " We love care fully examined the proposals of the delegates of the US and Sairon administrations ' said Mr Ha Van Lau. " We have many a time analysed and criticised their negative character) If we dismiss it. it is because it aims only at implementing US aggressive and neo-colonialist policy in South Viet Nam, perpetuating the partition of Viet Nam. trampling underfoot the fundamental rights of the Vietnamese people and denving the South Vietnamese their right to self-determination As has been recalled many times, we are ready to negotiate with the parties concerned a peaceful settlement of the South Viet Nam issue on the basis of the NFL to points. If the Viet Nam war drags on, if the Paris Conference marks time, it must be entirely blamed on the US and Saigon selministra-

All-Viet Nam Militant Sol- We Will Do Our Best To Mobilize idarity, an Invincible Force

(Excepts from the speech delivered by HOANG QUOC VIET, moreor of the Viet Nam Workers' Party CC, member of the Presidium of the Fetheraland Front CC anti-President of the Fetheration of Trade Unions: at the rilly in honour of the WANDPP Entegation)

THE US aggressors and their lackays, traitors to the country, want to turn the South Viet Nam towns and cities into safe cam towns and cities into sate strongholds and hideouts. But the flames of struggle in the South Vict Nam urban centres hive never ceased spreading. The videspread offensives and uprisings of the South Vict Nam armed Jorces and prople early last year have carried the patriotic war into the towns. In coordination with the people's tiberation armed forces, the periodic and revolutionary forces in the towns all to a man stood up, and attacked the enemy in his very lairs. Intellectuals, students, papils, industrialists, traders, workers, functionaries, and even many of-ficers and soldiers of the pappet army, of different political ten-dencies, and religious creeds have taken part in increasing numbers in the patriotic movement and have organized themselves, together with the people at large, to fight the US aggressors and their flunk-ys, for national salvation.

The Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces came into being amidst such effervescence.

The event was of tremendous political importance in the new stage of the South Vist Nam revolution. It spelled out the vigor-ous development of the patriotic movement of the South Vietnamese

urban people. The Alliance's birth and activities further aggravate the isolation of the US imperialists and the Thieu-Ky-Huong traitor clique, and portend their inevitable failure.

The National Salvation Manifesto and Political Program of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Porces has clearly expounded its goal which is: to raily all patriotic forces and individuals, light resolutely against foreign aggression, completely overthrow the Thieu-Ky puppet regime, ment, achieve independence, de mocracy and peace.

The sound position of the Alliance is consistent with the Political Program of the South Viot Nam NFL, and the pressing demands and common interests of the South Vietcommon interests of the South Viet-namess people. This has therefore won the strong approval from broad strata of the people in the urban centres still controlled by the enemy, and the sympathy and support of the people in South Viet Nam and the rest of the country.

Mutual support and co-ordinated actions between the NFL and the VNANDPF have created new posti-VNANDEZ have created new possi-bilities for the broadening and consolidation of the national united front against the US aggressors and the Thieu Ky-Huong gang of traitors.

(Continued page 7)

South Viet Nam Townspeople To Step Up Their Struggle Against **US** Aggression

(Excerpts from the speech delivered by Lawyer TRINH DINH THAO, Head of the VNANDPF D legation)

THE tremendous successes of the South Viet Nam armed forces and people, especially the splendid achievements in the stage of widespread offensives and upraings can be ascribed to the ardent patriotism, the deep hatred for the US aggressors and their heachmen, the spirit of a lf- sacrifice for the Fatherland, and the valiant fighting of the South Viet Nam armed forces and people under the leadership of the South Viet Nam NFL, the organ-izer and leader of the victorious resistance of the South Victnamese people. They are also due to national solidarity and the unity of mind and might of all patriots.

We are very glad and moved at the great accomplishments recorded by our North Vietnamese kith and-kin in national construction and in building a new life in the North. braving countless sacrifices and trials during the war. They have brought added glory to our nation, and stimulated the South Victnamese and stimulated the South Victoranese people including various strata of the urban population in their fight against the US aggressors, for national salvation.

We wish to voice our admiration to the North Vietnamese intellec-

build a modern science and advanced culture for the nation, contributing actively to national salvation and

The South Vietnamese people, The South Vietnamese people, est ectally the people in the towns and cities, and in the areas still controlled by the enemy, greatly admire the North Vietnamese people's downing of more than 3,300 US aircraft, explicing of the US Air Force's "superiority" myth, defeating of the US air and naval war

The US aggressors have been adventurous enough to wage a local war in South Viet Nam and a war the at million Vietnamese in the two zones is an invincible force, a magic wand helping our people to inflict defeat after defeat upon the

US aggressors(...)
The big successes of the South
Viet Nam armed forces and people have driven the US aggressors and passiveness, weakness and utter mperialists is all too clear to every ondy, but for more than a year nov they have remained obdurate and

(Continued page 7)



At the welcome rally: The crowd enthusiastically welcomes combatants from the great Southern front

LEANING ON A REED

(Continued from bage 1)

the stripes of a sorgeant. The same is true with virtually all other senior officers including Nguyen Cao Ky, Nguyen Van Vy, Cao Van Vien, respectively Vice-President, Defence Minister and General Chief of Staff, etc.

During the different offensives of the Viet Nam People's Army, especially in the period of Dien Bien Phu, these outlits becoming "national (puppet) army" of the Bao Dariegime, virtually disintegrated. Of regime, virtually disintegrated. Of South after Geneva (1954) and patched up thanks to US dellars, weapons and "advisers," dictator Ngo Dinh Diem made a "republican army" up the Hair river "which serves as the demacation line between the two zones, North and South Viet Ann. However, faced with the upsarge of the revolutionary movewheel towards internal repression.

In 1959-1960, even with its 300,000 men under arms, it was powerless in face of the "simultaneous popular uprisings," with the result that Washington had to start the "special war" in the years 1961-1965, Despite its 500,000 men, a 20-1 troop ratio according to US estimates, its losses kept rising year after year:

1961: 49,400 killed, wounded and deserters :

- 1952: 85,000 killed, wounded and deserters; 1963: 118,000 killed, wounded

1963: 118,000 killed, wounded and deserters;

1964: 135,400 killed, wounded and deserters,

The impotence of the number array became pattern in the 3p to heattle which took place on 1n 2, og 3p to 1n 2,

Towards the beginning of 1965, as American correspondents put it, the puppet army was like a boat in distress amidst an impetuous current, and that forced the Pentagon into a massive US troop build-up in South Viet Nam.

At first, the Gi's replaced the puppet troops in guarding the bases and the rears to enable the latter to do the fighting, in which they soon proved imapt. Westmorreland to the fighting, in which they soon forces the first the commit his own forces the the state of the commit his own forces the first the

Next, it was a further step in the "Americanisation of the war"; the GI's now shouldered the combat the GI's now shouldered ppet were moved behind the life pacification task and do the housewife's task as the Western press termed it. This modest job was still so heavy for them that US troops had to assume a major share.

Since the 1958 Tet offensives, the weaknesses of the puppet army have been even more accentuated and at times, Abrams has had to deploy one-third of the strength of the stren

BRIEF REVIEW OF THE

THE puppet army has to infantry divisions disposed as shown on the map opposite. All have been badly battered by the PHAF. Take for instance the First Infantry Division, on which LB Johnson lavished a culogistic citation and which the Pentagon took pleasure in praising as comparable to any.

Activated in November 1925 it was one of the first-born paper divisions and, occupying South Viet Mam's two northermous provinces of Quang Tri and Thua Thien, it played the assigned role of a spentent in a "March on the North." The control of these two provinces compelled the US command to burt US Marines into the jungle south of the 17th parallel in Summer 1966, thus uppeated in Summer 1966, the summer

Early in April 1957, in only a few days, two regimental CP's of this division were blotted out at La Awag and control of the c

The plight of the 9 other divisions

The 7th Inf. Div. once regarded as a model unit in the organisational field and a Ngo. Dinh Dien's lawoutte, was really a weathernock, coups d'état tint had erupted since 1953. Propped up by the US 9th Inf. Div. which. Nixon decided to bring home first, it had in 1968 however, 14 battalions written off the niusterroll or badly mauled. That is why, according to 4P (June 14, 1959) the US command in Saigon remained US command in Saigon remained the 7th Inf. Nix. In 1911 its mission. Let us mention also the case of the zard Inf. Div renowed for its record number of rebellions; that of the 18th infantry known in the "Pentagon East" as the most still of modging encounters with the VC and which showed a solid in deciding the showed a solid in the vice of the showed a solid in the vice of the characteristic of the charge in 18th also the linear rate in May last; that Visigion of Blood and Tears" for having suffered real bleeding (?) hattalions struck of the charge in 1958 alone); that of the zyth Inf. (unit twinned of the zyth Inf. (unit twinned of the zyth Inf. (unit twinned of the charge in 1958 alone); that of the zyth Inf. (unit twinned as zyth Inf. (unit twinned as

The puppet strategic reserves are made up of units of Paratroops, Marines and Rangers, regarded as

The Paratroops, who pat on the airs of bloodthirsty panther-men, are however mere raiseals in front of the resolute and battle-tested adversaries like the PLAF who have raised in them considerable raised of companies pat out of action in 1968 in Hue (February), on Highway No. 9 and in Khe Sanh (April), in Signo (May) and in the Tay Nigh

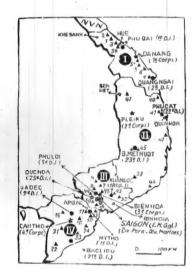
first half of this year, 13 companies were knocked out or thinned South-

The Marines, self-styled "Sea Tigers," have practically lost the first fighting pair in the Hinn Gia danaster (and Dec. 1961-Jan 1965) the Gia danaster (and Dec. 1961-Jan 1961-J

The Rangers, mobile forces of intervention in various tactical zones, lost to battalions in 1968, 3 of them each in the cities of Saigon, of them each in the cities of Saigon, Pels Can and Can Tho Last May, in Pels Can and Can Tho Last May, in Pels Can are wiped out of decimated out of decimated out of decimated out of decimated out of decimated.

FIRST REMEDY, INTENSIVE INDUCTION: TO QUENCH ONE'S

NON and Co. are well aware of the great defects of this army on to which they intend to shift the heavy combat tasks of the



Major Poppet Units in South Viet Nam

Roman number: Army corps and 'tactical area'.
Black square: General Staff (Saigon).
Black star; Army corps and 'tactical stra' HQ.
Black circle: Division HQ.
Black circle: Division HQ.

expeditionary corps in the "de-Americanisation," in essence "puppeti-sation." In different statements, they have contemplated remedies at massive dose, first of all an intensive military draft for a rapid increase of the strength.

According to US Ness and Herdle Report of March 17, 1669, Nixon planned to pull out US troops by replacing a GI by a pupper soldiers after crash training the latter. Thus it is necessary to promptly double the effectives of the pupper army, to over i million men. What a utopia, especially when the Americans and their valets will does not be used to be used to the contraining the control of the

In these areas, the troop levy has become a real sourge for the people and a source of constant anxiety for all families. The husband or the adolescent boy, at home, at the work site, at abool or in the street, by day or by night, risks at any mount taken as a milary truck to be driven, often tied up, to a recruiting centre. Of coarse, the draft agents are not over-particular and children of 15 and even younger, grey-headed men, even sick and disabled persons are seen presaganged

The state of the people against the US-puppers, it still fails to swell the ranks sensibly because battle losses and desertions cut big gaps in the Saign array; close to 18,000 deserters in the Saign array; close to 18,000 deserters in the first half of 1909, the general unbolliastion law, Saignn's official figures could claim only (AP, May 13, 1909) that the pupper armed forces number 800,000 men, half of them in the "republican" regular

As disclosed by the Westera press, these tallies rather destined to the estimation of the budget to be defrayed by the Americans are inflated compared with the records kept which, in its turn, relies on reports submitted by lower echelons. As malversation has become a common practice in such a rotten machines as malversation has become a common practice in such a rotten machines in a common practice in such a rotten machines in a common practice in such a rotten machines in a common practice. Western correspondents have estimated that at each echelon of company, the figures have been swollen by at least 5%, for this purpose!

The most barbarods methods resorted to by the US-puppels will certainly be able to some extent beef up the bastard and anti-mitional, because the some content because the some bertogenous and its effectiveness quite poor already will feel the effects still more disastrously it is like quenching one's thirst with a poisoned trial.

British correspondents recently revealed that all the recruits were forced to enlist and that most of them have not yet come of draft age. It was reported that in Saigon, nearly soo bones and students of Boddhats schools had bettelled had to accept in its ranks (48 prisoners 80 of whom deserted the next day, etc.)

A similar jumble prevails in the corps of officers in which the criterion of promotion is, according to the US press, bribes, political connections, cringing... and not the control of th

foreign press correspondents, as well as the activities of the two most successive claudestine organisations in the theft of US aid committed by officers of the pupper marine under the baton of Nguyen Van Thien, and that of the opium traffic undertaken by air pilots under the control of Nguyen Cao Ky.

The first remedy seems rather inefficacious to enable the pupper army to assume the heavy tasks awaiting them.

SECOND REMEDY, MODERNI-SATION AND INCREASE OF WEAPONRY: TO COMBAT DIAR-RHOFA WITH OUIDINE

THIS remedy secms depend solely on Washington which has allowed a massive does of it in these days. Hundreds of thousands of M. it automatic rifles still not US camply, except the American, several squadrons of A.37 attack jet planes, river flotillas with modern units, a sufficient number of caphene, siver flotillas with modern units, a sufficient number of caphene, siver flotillas with paper army. Following his inspection tour of South Viet Nam Iast March, Melvin Laird proposed a 256 million-insation of the puppet from the pupper flotillas with the puppet from insation of the puppet from insation insation insation in the puppet from insation insation insation insat

However, the latter's armament is still far inferior to that of the GPs. and the still far inferior to that of the GPs. as mall parallel: a US of the strength of the still far inferior to the still fa

Ky's air force boasts, reported AFP, 30 A.37 planes used as training aircraft, some 50 F.5 Freedom Fighter combat planes a bit outdated, some 100 propelter-driven aircraft and a few beliconters.

The puppet navy has received only the first US river patrol boats and is practically still embryonic compared with the US fleet in Vietnamess or nearby waters.

Certainly, to "saturate" the puppet army with modern weaponry and equipment is something quite feasible for the US. But is it that a good remedy to secure it the favours of victory?

A minimum of logic is enough to see that up to now the US-papets have been battered not because of an interiority in this respect. Quite the opposite! This second remedy is just like quintie against diarrhees! Even in the best of cases, the puppet troops will not be given an armament equal to that of the GPs. Now that the latter could not hold their ground under the blows of the patrions in the last of years, how that the last of years, how the last of the puppet army to any better than their "silies"!

No, the true Achilles' heel of the puppet troops is not the lack of lardware, but of morale. This was acknowleged by Time magazine which commented on March 28 that specialized technics and fire-power could in no way replace the lack of morale in the puppet army.

THIRD REMEDY, INTENSIVE TRAINING: LOYE'S LABOUR LOST

G REAT efforts have been made to give the suppet troops an intensive training which will



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put them, in a mininum delay, in a position to fulfil the task Washington wants to assign to them. Washington wants to assign to them. The state of the state of

But the main difficulty is to determine what to teach the pupper troops and what combat methods to be adopted.

In fact, all US tactics, classic ur modern, have been tried on battlefield, and all have proved the state of the state of

US total impasse on the battlefield seems to show that the US military run short of imagination in this field. To acquaint the puppet troops with effective bactics capable of gaining victory is imcapable of gaining victory is imthese do not exist it only remains for the Americans to teach them those that have gone bankrupt, which is love's labour lost.

which is love's labour lost. Certainly, the troop shortage, poor armament and inadequate training constitute important weak points of the puppet army, but Washington has forgotten, or has not been able to find a remedy for this faith to life and the state of the puppet army, but Washington has forgotten, or has not been able to life and armore and consequently of combativity of an army involved in a math-andional and unjust war.

in an anti-national and unjust wer. The ineffectiveness of the proposed remedies is flagrant. According to UPI (June 13, 16/5), the Pentagon has estimated that it will cost 6.2 billion dollars and take 5 years or even longer to equip, train and modernise the puppet army. Well, in 5 years, God knows if this army still exists to serve the Pentagon.

A CRIPPLE DEPRIVED OF HIS CRUTCHES

THE treatment prescribed by Washington results in making of the puppet army an organism which appears, at a distance, impressive enough, but which is in reality ondernatous and crippled after 15 years of bitter deleats. Nevertheless, it is on this ailing body that Nixon wants to shift all the war burden.

Tests on "de-Americanisation" have been conducted of late in some areas, again with "discouraging" results: so, in the Mckong Delta where the NFL remains we where the NFL remains very powerful, the paper remains the conclude a modur risenal with the local guerillas; in the province of Long Khanh. East-Northeast of Saigon, between May's and May 10, 8 single the content of the NFL remains and the superflower of the NFL remains and the NFL rema

These experiments carried out with the presence and support of twe the presence and support of the presence and support of the presence and support of the presence and the reality of a very fit in "with the reality of a very war load that has crushed both the expeditionary corps and the pupper army is shirted on the latter's shoulders, there is no need to be a shoulders, there is no need to be a shoulders, there is no need to be a fine the present of t

from a cripple.

Persistence in this "de-Americanisation" by the Nixon Administration
to gain at lower cost its imperialist
ends is a dangerous game which will
bring on it even more humilating
setbacks. Still one wonders if
"Vertaministion" is in reality a big
"Vertaministion" is in reality a big
opinion which is growing impatient
of Washington's continued aggression

In fact, this withdrawal of GI's so cagerly desired by the American people would be ordered, according to Nixon, only under one of the 3 following conditions, each as utopian as the other:

the puppet troops would be in a position to replace the GPs, something which will never be possible as we have seen above;

 the hostilities would diminish markedly, something which is inconceivable so long as the US imperialists pursue their aggression against our Fathesland;

- the Paris Conference would have made substantial progress, while it is dragging its feet because of the absurd claim by the US government for a ransom for its aggression and its denial of our people's fundamental national rights.

In taying down unrealistic conditions, Nixon hopes to create pretexts for continuation of the war and put the blame on the Victnamese people.

Either it is a utopian policy or a cunning move, the "de-Americanisation" of the US war of aggression can by no means constitute a sheet anchor for this criminal adventure,

Nichname given by GIs to PI-II

of UPI, the Pathet I an Press

Agency added that US

military personnel and that

visers" had been clandes-

tinely active not only in

Nam Thong and Long Chang

but also in many other

military bases in Law to

assume direct command of

the Vientings rightist army

and pursue the US was of

At present, h'DI went on

the number of Us military

nersonn I and " advisers " in

Laos has reached 12,000.

not including tens of thon.

sands of US air force

personnel coming from vari-

ous US sir bases in Thailand

daily bombardments against

the Laction liberated zone.

South Viet Nam and

Seventh Floot, for

aggression in Lags.



LPF Spokesman Flays Vientiane's Provocation Against Vietnamese Officials

NAM

(Lantian Patriotic I ront issued a statement consignment deliministrature! arcesting, manhandling and expelling of five diplomats and stall members of the 18VN Embassy and VNA

"As everybaly knows." the statement said, "the Vientiane authorities had to the past carried out prov-ocations against the DRVN Embassy, eneiteled it and prevented the staff, ma ormal activities. They also ders against the DRVN with

EDITOR'S NOTE:

We rebrint below an artists

by Victoria Brittain which

appeared in the British weekly

New Statesman (May o. 1000)

and focused the fight of the

Mach Americans against the

RONAN Metealfe's mother

dent, to Congressman Adam

Clayton Powell because he's

tillick, to Senator Charles

Perce because he represents

her home state of Illinois

and to her own thicago

Congressman. So far she has

received neatly-typed replies

from the Navy Department

(Ronan is a marine), a tele-

tram from Percy, and up on

the Hill the senator's effi-

cient secretaries have opened

underground anti-war news-

because he's the Presi

L'iet Nam

of provocation this time in-fringes upon all regulations on normal diplomatic rela-tions among nations and constitutes a brazen chal-lenge to the Victnamese peomining the long-standing and close solidarity between the peoples of Laos and Viet Nam and causes tension between

plomatic regulations, ensure the security, movement and DRVN Embassy staff menthey must set free the Viet-namese officials unlawfully arrested and give up their intention to expel them.

"If the Vientiane admin. istration continues tailing after the US and undermine the friendly relations and intimate solidarity between the peoples of Laos and Viet Nam, and sabotaging Luns' policy of peace and neutrality, they must bear full responsibility for all the consequences arising from their acts," the statement concluded. Laos, " UP disclosed.

Quoting the above report

US News Agency Reveals US Clandestine Activities in Laos

N a report from Vientiane on August 1, 1969 about the recent "car accident" sgineered by the Vientiere administration as a protext to illegally arrest 6 DRVN officials, UPI revealed the clandestine activities of US military personnel and CIA agents in Nam Thong and Long Cheng military bases. about 100 miles north of Vientianc.

"Hundreds of American and hersonnel, Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) areats special forces troops and American Air Force personnel work clandestinely at the two bases, helping support and direct military operations all over northern

A FTER the battle I got lost.
The streets of Saigon were now teeming with GIs and puppet police. It would be risky for me to wander about alone in a PLAF uniform and with a tommy gun on my shoulder!

And so I screwed up my courage and hunched at a door

courage and kuoched at a door by the roadside. Stepping in, I saw an old man squatting on the floor, cutting arecajunts. He probably did that for a living, "Good morning, Pop," I said, "I am a PLAF man Could you put me up for the

The old man stopped in his work, looked up and eved me up and down, bewilderment in his eyes. He and quickly closed it. Then he took me into an inner room fully. I put my canvas hat and gun on a corner of the plank bed. In old woman slowly entered the room and said pleadingly: "We can't honestly tell whether you're a PLAF man or a Saigon soldier Over a man came and soldier. Once a man came and said he was a PLAF man. In fact, he did wear a PLAF uniform, tike you. But after he had stayed for a few days, we discovered that he was in reality a Saigon man. All right, since you've come, you can stay. But please hide your oun II will being us tenuble

There were little I smild do to convince them I was a true PLAF man, So I stephed close

received sentences between

nine months and is years.

something for all American

The Old Woman of Saigon

cout we have to fight the Vambe and their puppels. Trust me.
I'll do nothing that may have

betel-tainted lips with a cheq-uesed handkerchief and heaved a sigh; "How do we know? Those last less days the PLAE Those last few days the PLAF-have been hitting hard at the Yanks, Roat after boat has left the harbour, loaded with GI bodies. Soldiers of Mesus Thieu and Ky, donning Jalsa Three and ky, donning faces
PLAF uniforms, have been
seeking vefuge in civilian
homes. How could we see any
difference? All right, since you've come, you may slay if you like. But please don't go out, the PLAF may see you, and

this may set us into trouble.' That day I tried to do novi ous little things to help the old couple: drying area nuls in the kitchen, laying a few bricks round the water far... But she old woman wouldn't let me...

to late atternoon she can me black pyjemas and tole When I came back, she hugged me and said in tears, "All right son, now I know you are a real PLAF man, you belong to people on our side. I'm se

I was dumblounded. How

did she know? What caused that abrupt change in her attitude? She soon gave me the reason. Pointing at my bare feet, she said in a gently chid-ing tone: "You blockhead, I had a scheme of my own, I sent you to a bath because this sent you to a bath because this would make you take off your shoes, and then I saw the mark. left by the itraps of your rubber tyre sandals! I knew PLAF boy."

my eyes as a rule. Hut when I heard these words, I could hardly contain my emotion

WE had just sat down to impation the hoocks were heard. The old wounds signalled me into the inner soon. There I stoot, holding my gun and listening intentin

intently.

Someone, most certainly a policeman, was asking in a harsh voice, "Any stranger in your house?" To this the old woman anguered coolly: "All there are now in my

"All there are now in my house are myself, my old man, and the two of you." But the second policemen provid a sharp-syed rasoal. "It'sy should these be three

hours and three bairs of chob. sticks for the meal?" he ashed

My host was quick-witted. hospitable people. You may not know it because you are too vouse but whenever there is table we always but an extra

just in case some guest drops in. Now if you two want to share our west, just bob into the hitchen and latch much bowl and pair of chopsticks

The answer come in a wearted wore: Thank you, but we've lots of other fish

you tell that ruffian to go get a boot in the hitchen, Ma " I asked in a slightly re-proachful voice." He could have humped into me! She smiled, "Well, I couldn't

myself, could I . This So I told him to go himself, doubts time on his mind Bosides, should be rashly step into the kitchen, you'd have made short work of him. As for his companion, well, my old man and I could have connect with him!

coped with him."

Quite a strategist, wasn't she's But I was not yet at the end of my surprise. When you had finished our meat, and I set about mashing up. the old couple told me other encounters they had had with the encury

Tiliar evening, I asked the old woman to tell me some more about how she did away with two cruel thugs in the first days of the Tex general offensives and concepted uprisings. But she would rather talk about her two children. Her son

home only three letters in more than a year, to say that he had been amarked Liberation medals on several occasions. About a week and she learnst at his house death in an on-laught on Can The one aidn't err, but sat up several nights chesing batel Her daughter had joined the Saigon people's self-defence curps in the first day of the Tex offensive She had recently been notified by the Command of the city's PLAF that the oirl had been homes that the girl had been honour-id with the fith "Valiant Inti-US Fighter" for having

had joined the PLAF and had been fighting in western Nam Bo. He had written home only three letters in

put out of action 23 Yanks
...thin two days.
It was simply a mother talking about his children Yet it seemed to me as though mendation of mendation of some elite fighter's exploits. She was talking in a soil whisper. but it was clearly mulible in the still of night, in spite conserve about in the street

That night I slept in the sores had I deeply left the sleep a wink, I thought about the old couple and their childeen and baselly unwrited about

how to rejoin my unit.
Sometime past midnight I
heard the old woman's voice heard the old woman's voice morning comes, I'll get in touch with our side and help the PLAF hoy find his unit.

He is bubbling over with imlighting." TRAN THANH

* Southern civilian energy

a view to covering up the US imperialists' war inten-sification in Laos. Their act of provocation this time in-

The LPF and the Lantian people vigorously protest administration's hostile and illegal acts, demand that they strictly respect the di-

paper now circulated in army camps across the country Open Sights comes out every two weeks. It is printed by photo-offset, apparently supported by advertisements, and distributed free : 4,000 copies were printed of the first two issues though relaperatie tively few were actually distributed. One of the best

have forged an alliance be-Café in Columbia, South Carotween blacks and middle-class lina; which is the headquarradicals in the army. Shaketers of 'GIs united against the down describes the army as war in Viet Nam.' Tulanethe tool of the anti-black. Texas, has the Obvoscint anti-worker, imperialistic Cafe, and a chain of similar system.' The words sound coffee houses has sprung up like the Students for a Demnear army camps around the Society or any country. They are frowned campus radical, and some of upon by the authorities and the GI dissenters are exaubject to constant visita

Last Harass, published some neat satire and was smartly given an undesirable discharge fortnight before he was due to leave the army.

The GI civilian anti-war conference had a two-day meeting in Chicago last Christmas to organise peace marches which took place simultaneously in six cities in the last month. Although army rules prevent soldiers marching for peace while in uniform. and thus make them hard to identify, there were some humdreds of them in the New York march alone. In Scattle during February 400 soldiers staged a peace march. 'Gla united against the war in Vict Nam' was the group responsible for the San Francisco prace march last October which led to the famous case of the Presidio 27' now on trial at Fort Ord, California

last October, some of whom had been absent without leave for the march in San Francisco, while others were longer - standing prisoners. The group protested about the appalling conditions of the prison and about the coldblooded shooting of a fellow prisoner - a desperate tuyear-old neurotic called Richard Bunch - by a prison guard. Stubbers singing of We Shall Overcome brought out the stockade commandant. who charged the men with 'mutiny,' which is punishable by death. Eight of the 27 have so far been tried in

Gls' Fight Against Viet Nam Waz

a Ronan Metcalfe file Rosan Metcalfe is a black known GI newspapers is the teenage GI in Viet Name Fort Dix Shakedown, an eightawaiting court-martial. His page tabloid printed in New letters to his mother are tor-York. It is widely distributed rents of fear and confusion. on railway and bus stations he hates the war, sees white in New York and Philadelracism all around him in the phia and is also neatly folded army and does not underinto copies of the New York stand the charges against him. Times on sale at the base The Metcalfe case touches Three big Southern bases also the two running sores of the have underground newspapers American army dissent over the war, and racism. - Fort Jackson, South Caroli-Ronan is lucky - his mother's

na, has Short Timer, Fort Hood Texas, has Fatigue Press and persistence has ensured him a Fort Gordon, Georgia, has The Last Harass. All the Oben Sights, wone news. papers are written entirely paper against war and racby enlisted men and Open ism...,' Washington's newest Sights editors are typical of newspaper, is produced in the the other papers one New England WASP and a Harlem army barracks of Fort Belhigh-school drop-out. voir, Virginia, and is the tenth

Shared anti-war feelings

SDS. The army activists and above all the newspaper editors are well-known to the authorities. They are delib erately scrupulous in their appearance and military behaviour so that no evens found for throwing them out of the army. The dissent and racism' link has been more easily forged in the army than on the campuses mistreatment of blacks by NCOs is so common. Discrimination is both overt or. as in the case of Ronan Metcalfe, a series of confusing minor persecutions such as stopping leave and chang-

The underground newspapers are distributed openly in coffee bars such as the UFO

ing duties.

from the military police, but well patronised by Gla for 25-cent coffee, folk singers and a speaking outlet.

The anti-war café talk and the underground newspapers pass on reports of anti-war activities in other army camps, glorifying the activists on trial such as the Fort Jack son U' and the Presidio 27 and giving advice on the legal position of active-duty soldiers involved in anti-war protests. All the papers point out that the army cannot impound reading matter, though commanding officers strongly discourage distribution of the newspapers, and in Fort Dix copies have been seized, while in Georgia one Dennis Davis, editor of The

The '27' were a group of prisoners in the Presidio stockarle

Lourteen are on trial this week in California The Presidio 17 have done

military prisoners. So horcitale are the conditions they have described - desperate over-crowding with over 110 prisoners in a space designed for 88, food for too feeding 115, four lavatories for the whole prison, racial persecution by guards, systematic delumination which has led to so suicide attempts in the last year that the normally pro-army Senate Armed Services Committee has been forced into holding the dirst congressional inquiry into military prisons for is years. Next week a group of penologists will visit the Presidio, and although there has been plenty of warning to get it cleaned up, the prisoners will still be there to testify. The army has 10,500 men in stockales out of its 1 1/2 million enbliere

There has been steady rise in the stockade population over the last counts of years and more recently a marked increase in AWOL. The army has over-reacted to the threat of subversion with extra duty, pass restrictions and arrests for activists - attitudes calculated to increase the following of the militants. Attempts to insulate camps from news of planned peace demonstrations have been notably unsuccessful. The San Francisco neace march

VIET NAM COURIER

was most effectively publicised after the base commander had forbidden the circulation of leaffets, when a nurse from the Viet Nam veterans' hospital hired private plane and bombarded he base with leaflets.

Many of the activists here were moulded and embittered by the shock of actually ighting in Viet Nam. Dissen on home bases is overt but less desperate than in Viet

Disillusion with the army states from Day One. Private Richard Gentile one of the Presidio defendants described the neumines of decent job in the engine and turbine school and the realities of a job in the army kitchen. Metcalfe had the same exprience. 'They come to the high

schools here and promise them things - I told him they were liars,' said Mrs Metcalfe, For Metcalfe, as for all blacks in the army and particularly those in Viet Nam, the old myth about good race relations in the army was shattered by the revolt at the Long Binh stockade (known locally as the LBJ) 12 miles north of Saigon last summer. The riot was triggered by a racial quarrel and it tool over an hour for too military policemen to quell. Racial ension has got worse since. I'm afraid for Ronan - there's whites who've threatened to kill him, said Mrs Metcalfe

> (New Statesman 9 May 1969, pp 643, 644)

All-Viet Nam...

(Continued from page 3) Fired by the continual offensives and repeated successes of the South Viet Nam armed forces and people, and prompted by the urgent requirements of the South Viet Nam revolution, the NPL and the VNANDPF recently convened after consultations the South Viet Nam Congress of People's Repretionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam and its Advisory Council. Many leaders of the Alliance were unani-

Many leaders of the Alliance were unanimously elected by the Congress to the PRG and its Advisory Council (...)
President Ho Chi Minh, the venerated leader of our people, has said: "Viet Namis one, the Vietnamese people are one. Rivers may ran dry and mountains sear flat, but that truism decidedly will never

change. '
The US aggressors and their hirelings have resorted to countless divisive tricks against our people in the North and the South. But their growing brutality and trickiness only bring closer the 31 million Victnamese in the common struggle for the interests of the

common struggle for the interests of the nation and the defence of the Fatherland. The militant solidarity between the North and South Vietnamese people, between the Viet Nam Tatherland Front and the South Viet Nam NFL and the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces constitutes an invincible force that no reactionary force can break.

In early Spring this year, the North Vict-namese people welcomed the Ni'L delegation headed by Dr. Phurg Van Cang, which headed by Dr. Phurg Van Cang, which brought to the 17 million North Vietnames brough to the 17 minion roots vietnament tokens of the blood-sealed affection and victorious mettle of heroic South Viet Nam. Today, the people of North Viet Nam and of Hanoi jubilantly greet the delegation of the VNANDFF led by Lawyer Trinh Dinh Thao. This visit of the Alliance's leaders

further; strengthens the militant solidarity between our fellow-countrymen in the cities, intellectuals, students and other strata in two zones, solidarity which will help push ahead the struggle for an independent, free, peaceful and seutral South Viet Nam and for the ultimate peaceful remification of the country

We Will Do...

(Continued from tage 3)

blocked the progress of the Paris Confer-

In face of the present serious situation true togits Political Programme, the Vist Peace Forces solemnly reiterates its position the US must end its aggression, withdraw unconditionally all US troops and troops of its satellites from South Viet Nam, recognize its satellites from South Vet Nam, recognize the basic national rights of the Vietnamess-people namely independence, sovereignty, unity, and territorial integrity. The US government must talk seriously with the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam on the basis of the ten-point overall solution of the South Viet Nam NFL and the well-known four points of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam for which the Alliance has many times declared its full support. This points to an honourable way for the this points to an honourable way for the US government to get out of a war very costly is men and money, a war that has been meeting with diamal setbacks in South Viet Nam. There is no other choice for the US. If the Nixon administration adamantly continues objecting to this solution, it will surely experience still more bitter failures. The South Vietnam as people including those in the towns and cities, responding to the appeal of the South Viet Nam NFL and of the PRG of the RSVN, and that of President Ho Chi Minh on July 20 last, are determined to rush forward to attack and rise up continuously against the enemy everywhere to attack them till all the US and so troops are withdrawn from South Viet Nam. till the Thieu-Ky-Huong administration is completely overthrown. This single purpose of the South Vietnamese people including the urban people is unshakcable

The VNANDPF undertakes to go in hands with the South Viet Nam NFL best to mobilize the people of all strata in South Viet Nam's towns and cities to strength. en their solidarity, and step up the waves of widespread offensives and uprisings to bring the resistance against the US aggres-sors, for mali-mal salvation to complete

WEEKLY SURVEY

LARGE

VERY active in ERY active in all theatres of op rations, the PLAF made very heavy attacks on the Saiyory neavy attacks on the Sau-gon front, haumering unsemittingly at the positions of US divisions "First Can.," "Tropic Lightning" and "Big Red One," Amoused Regiment II and puppel Infantry Division 3 in the provinces of Tay Ninb. northwest, and Binh Long. North of Saigon (Hon Quan Region).

Saigon outer "defence belt" was strongly shaken. In six days from the night of August 11 to 17, about 80 attacks were launched by the PLAF in these two provinces, exacting heavy tosses from the enemy who had 6,000 men (3,500 GIs) put out of action, pupper Armoured Regiment 15 badls nunled, 5 battalious, an armoured squadrons and 16 companies wiped out, 330 military vehicles (450 tanks and armoured carriers), 70 ordnance pieces destroyed or dumaged, 90 aircraft downed or weeked, its war vessels sun

Southwest of Saigon, the enemy was An sectors (to targets and even in M) The town and base of US Division and Itong Tum). From August 12 to 16, 1,350 enemy troops and 40 vehicles were put out of action.

In the northernmost part of South fout and 4 aircraft downed in Quang Vict Nam, south of the DMZ on the 17th parallel, 45 Marines and puppet troops engaged near Con Tien and Dong Ha suffered heavy losses bringing the enemy toll in the first half of August to nearly 1,000 casualties (900 Gls), 42 vehicles destroyed, 12 aircraft downed and 5 vessels sunk or burnt.

In Hun sector, in addition to the onset against the airfield in the Citadel and enemy positions as mentioned in our last issue, the patriotic forces knocked out a US company, burnt and destroyed 20 depots of was materiel and a dozen blockhouses and barrachs in a daring coup de main on the night of August 11. In the Da Nang sector, the PLAF maintained their pressure in the areas south. southeast and southwest of the city 67 targets were hit on the night of due. It and about one thousand enemy casualties (760 GIs) were listed on August 12 and 13. Between the night of Aug. 11 and 14, US Do Nang base was struck three times in 6 days ending August 17. 600 adverse troops and 12 vehicles were wiped Ngal province.

Summing up, enemy losses in the First Tactical Area were very heavy. particularly in so far as Armoured Infantry Division 5, Airborns Division tot and Americal Division were concerned.

These onslaughts, chiefly those launched in the Binh Long and Tay Nink sectors, despite the enemy concentration of 20 battalions and 500 armoured vehicles, testify to the high fighting spirit and huge potentials of the PLAF which are developing unceasingly in all fields, particularly in the tactical methods against enemy motorized and armoured forces and entrenched camps. On the other hand the setbacks suffered by the US expose the utter impotence of Abrams' defensive strategy and tactics and augur ill of his desperate attempt to " Vietnamits" the war and to curtail American losses.

IN Saigon, nearly 200 public trans-port workers reaffirmed at a meeting held on August 17 at the seat of the General Federation of La-

bour, their resolute opposition to the decision of the puppet administration to close the bus state-run enterprise. thus rendering tale hundreds of workers. Notice was served by the protes-tors on the puppet administration, threatening it with a general strike in case their demand would not be met.

This action of the Saigon bus drivers has stirred world opinion and, on behalf of civil servants in 65 countries, the public servants' international TU sent a letter to the Saigon administration to back the South Vietnamese workers.

Besides, on the occasion of the 6th anniversary of the bloody repression of the Buddhists in South Viet Nam towns and cities by the Ngo Dinh Dien administration (August 20), the Bureau of the Buddhist Institute in Saigon made public a statement by the Banze Superior, director of the Institute, demanding cancellation of the illegal condemnation of Bonze Sup-rior Thich Thien Minh, chief of the Buddhist Youth, and abrogation of law 23-1967 authorizing the reaction ary bonze Thich Tam Chau to split the Buddhist movement. The statement called on Buddhists to fight for peace in South Viet Nam.

Foreign press correspondents in Saigon reported that the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique had closed down on lugust 16 the weekly Dion Dan (Trihune) right at its first issue, under the bretext that it carried cartoons rediculing the puppet regime.

THE first six months of this year saw, among other things, a stepped-up political drive in South Viet Nam, whose successes helped enhance the offensive posture of the people and their armed forces.

More than 20,000 highlanders in Central Viet Nam rose up in the period under review, razing 93 homilata'' in Kong "strategic hamlets" in Kong If Ring, southeast of Tan Canb township in Kontum province, which involved some 10,000 people.

the month ending March In the month ending March 22, the people in the central prov-inces of Central Viet Nam demol-ished 150 "strategic hamlets" and "refugees' centres," asserting their power in areas with an over 200,000 total pepulation.

In the provinces west and south-west of the Mekong river revolts broke out in 222 "strategic hamlets" with the participation of more than 260,000 people.

more than 260,000 people.

Shattering blows were dealt at the enemy right in areas supposed to be very "secure." People in the provincial capitals of My Tho. As Giang and Quang Naus provinces and on their outskirts, in co-ordination with armed home-gendla and guerillas armed home-gendla mid guerillas of "strategic hambers," and disbanded many "popular defence" units. Even in Saigon, many wicked enemy agents were made away with.

These political actions assumed

These political actions assumed varied forms, from street demonstrations to confrontations to foil enemy raids.

POWERFUL STEP-UP OF POLITICAL AGITATION IN FIRST HALF OF 1969

Popular action was no less strong in contested and liberated areas, and thwarted to a great extent the notorious "accelerated pacification" campaign of the US puppets.

scampings of the US-puppers.
In southern Long Aa, the people and their armed forces in May and the first ball of June mounted 200 attacks on enemy troops engaged in 'pacification' operations. In two surprise assaults on a position in Long An town, they wiped out 125 enemy soldiers. There was an actioning of 200 action (the US of the Control of the US of the Control of the Contro

In the delta provinces of My Tho, Ben Tre, Go Cong, An Giang and Kien Phong, the people in the three summer months heavily trounced 26 "pacification" groups and knocked out many troops in their support their support.

Within four days in mid-May, 13 such groups were made short work of in the central part of Central Viet Nam.

The so-called "Popular Defence Forces" -a prop of the fattering "accelerated pacification" program - were also battered, with tens of

thousands of their men disabled in these six months. Many areas have completely got rid of these bandits. In the southern provinces, it has become a practice among "Popular Defence" men to hand in their weapons and turn a new leaf.

The grassroots puppet administra-tion, as a result, is fast collapsing, Most of the "elections" to village puppet administration in the past three months have been beyouthed by the people, while, in growing numbers, willage despot are re-porting themselves to the revolu-tionary authorities.

Meanwhile, People's Revolutionary Committees of all levels had been established in most of the provinces by the end of June, following the formation of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam early that month.

Struggle was particularly fierce against enemy atrocities and for democratic liberties. There were marches on towns in which the marchers confronted the enemy with his victims, alive or dead, to his utter confusion. The demonstrations against wanton bombardments in

Long An, Bien Hos, My Tho, Can Tho, Gis Dinh and Quang Ngai provinces draw in even religious

Strikes in the towns were expanded to a larger solle and put a variety of claims, soon out a variety of claims, soon Ngal province struck for price cats and US withdrawal. Persans tilling terraced fields in Tay Nush and Long Khash provinces are used to the control of the cont

In Saigon, Hue, Da Nang, Can Tho, My Tho and other inajor urban centres there were wide-outs for lower prices of rice, sugar, flour, and reduction of import taxes. In Saigon in particular, lujud protests have been raised against the ban-ning of Lambretta cyclecabs—the ning or Lambretta eyescatos — incompy means of living of thousands of families — and the dissolution of collective management of bus lines, which threatens thousands of drivers with unemployment.